



# *Friends of Michigan History, Inc.*

## **Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

Francis "Bus" Spaniola,  
President  
*Corunna*

David H. Brickey,  
Vice-President  
*Ewart*

Keith G. Harrison,  
Secretary  
*Holt*

Richard S. Johnson,  
Treasurer  
*East Lansing*

### **Directors**

Adriana Greci Green  
*Detroit*

Keith I. Pohl  
*Mason*

Charles Seeley  
*Lansing*

Tom Shawver  
*Lansing*

Louise W. Stilwill  
*East Lansing*

Paul M. Tarr, Jr  
*Lansing*

Tom Truscott  
*Lansing*

Bill Wellman  
*East Lansing*

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann  
*Lansing*



## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC**

### **Meeting Minutes Lansing, Michigan January 8, 2007**

#### **Call to Order**

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:07 AM.

*Board Members Present:* Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Tom Shawver, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

*Board Members Absent:* Adriana Greci Green and David Brickey.

*Board Members Excused:* Adriana Greci Green.

*Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present:* Chris Dancisak.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

***A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented; motion passed.***

#### **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as transmitted; motion passed.***

***A motion was made and seconded acknowledging and thanking Jennifer Sochor for putting together the new Board Members Books; motion passed.***

#### **President's Report**

President Spaniola expressed his thanks to all the Board Members for their dedication and commitment to the Board during 2006 and for their continued promotion of Michigan history.

President Spaniola initiated a discussion regarding Museum Director Phil Kwiatkowski's communication about the change in how the funds of the Museum donation boxes would be handled from this point forward. It was the consensus of the Board that what was proposed was fine and that, after today, the Board would expect to see only requests to financially support Museum exhibit and program initiatives (i.e., there would no longer be any requests for reimbursements for Museum staff education and travel expenses).

President Spaniola referenced Pat Clark's December 21, 2006 email

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summarizing the results of the December 19, 2006 meeting between the Friends and Michigan Historical Center Foundation (Foundation) regarding the Friends' financial and membership record issues. A formal agreement is in the process of being drafted by Ms. Clark. Once the draft is completed, it will be shared with the Board for review and comment. Secretary Harrison indicated that one portion of the agreement will deal with the Foundation providing the Friends with a list of the Friends' membership and then providing the Friends with periodic updates. The initial sharing of the membership list already has taken place and a new membership database, capable of providing a variety of reports, has been developed by the Friends.

President Spaniola informed the Board that Fayette had met a donation challenge by raising \$2500 and thereby received an additional \$2500. Tom Truscott suggested that it might be useful if Fayette could get in contact with the Thompson Group, which is a local organization in the area. President Spaniola indicated that if Board Member Truscott would provide him with a contact for the Thompson Group, he would forward it to Fayette.

There was a brief discussion regarding the imminent departure of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries Director, William Anderson. Geneva Wiskemann discussed the need for the incoming director to strongly consider developing a 5-year operational plan, since such a plan is useful in helping to obtain grant monies from organizations such as the Michigan Humanities Council.

The Board briefly discussed the current ambiguous Museum policy on free admissions and charged tours and the possibility, in light of the state's bleak financial situation, of the Museum instituting an admission charge. Several Board members indicated that they would support a recommendation to the Museum for such a policy change. Bill Wellman indicated that he would be willing to recommend such a change only if it was accompanied with a marketing plan for the Museum.

### **Treasurer Report**

Balance	12-05-06	\$ 1,451.88
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Deposit	12-14-06	<u>3,804.60</u>
		= \$15,256.48

### **Checks**

1301 James Caven	\$ 1,345.50	
1302 Lance Burghardt	+ <u>560.00</u>	
	\$ 1905.50	
Balance	12-31-06	- <u>1,905.50</u>
		= \$13,350.38

### **Uncashed Checks**

1295 Michigan Council of Ed	\$ 50.00	
1299 North Mich Univ (Ft Wilkins)	+ <u>2,500.00</u>	
	\$ 2,550.00	
		- <u>2,550.00</u>

(Subtotal)		= \$ 1,214.62
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[Treasurer Report continued]

(Subtotal from previous page) \$ 1,214.62

### Restricted Funds

Walker Tavern \$ 616.10

Military Exhibit 119.80

Fayette 159.60

\$ 895.50

- 895.50

Available Funds

= \$ 9,905.48

Based on a question from Paul Tarr, the reported \$3,804.60 deposit represents collected Friends' dues and \$159.60 for Fayette. The ongoing inter-accounting issue between the Friends and the Foundation regarding past funds still needs to be resolved.

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report; motion passed.***

***A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of \$159.60 to Fayette for their share of the membership dues received; motion passed.***

### Presentation of Bills

A. \$972.97 – Lieby Travel Expenses

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the payment of \$972.97; motion passed for Museum Staff Lieby Travel Expenses (Payable to the Foundation).***

It was requested that President Spaniola transmit to Museum Director Kwiatkowski an email acknowledging payment of this staff travel expense by the Board and the Board's decision, in concert with the Museum's new donation box fund policy, to no longer pay for such expenses.

### Museum Report

The Board indicated that the meeting minutes should reflect the presence of the Director of Museum at its meetings and that the Director should consider this a standing invitation for his attendance.

Chris Dancisak discussed an earlier email that he had sent to the Board regarding the Museum's Work Exhibit that is being held in conjunction with the Kresge Art Museum and the upcoming (Tuesday) February 6, 2007 (5:30 PM to 7:30 PM) reception that will take place. He asked if the Friends would attend and provide financial support for the catering of the reception. He indicated that the Friends will be acknowledged for its support.

***A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$900.00 to support the catering of the February 6, 2007 Work Exhibit reception; motion passed.***

Chris Dancisak discussed the Museum's plan for celebrating Black History Month and its efforts to establish a better working relationship with the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department.

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This year the Museum will lend its support to the City's efforts to help expand its youth oriented activities through the raised proceeds. On February 22, 2007, a Special Black History Month Reception and Presentation fund raiser entitled, *Each of These Legs Is A Road*, will be sponsored by the Museum and the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Through poems, dramatic readings of historical documents, visual art, and music, Dr. Michelle S. Johnson, Linsay Kelly, and Denise Miller will give a contemporary voice to the stories of African Americans who escaped enslavement by walking, rowing, or riding to Michigan and what they hoped was freedom. Beginning the evening will be a reception in the Michigan Historical Museum from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM. The reception will be followed by the program at 7:00 PM. Tickets will be \$15.00 and are available at the Michigan Historical Museum Store. Proceeds from the event will help support the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department's programs and the Museum's educational programs. The Museum is looking for corporate sponsorship for this program. Support for this program in the form of \$500.00 was requested from the Friends. Acknowledgement of the Friends support will be provided in the literature.

***A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$500.00 to support the Museum's and the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department's planned program for Black History Month; motion passed.***

A brief discussion ensued regarding additional fund raising programs that the Board could help sponsor in the future. Some of the ideas included holding an annual jazz or other type of music festival (in conjunction with Michigan State University), a Wooden boat show (in conjunction with Chris-Craft and Century), a history of comics program (again, in conjunction with Michigan State University), and a charted bus tour of Michigan lighthouses (in conjunction with the Michigan Lighthouse Commission).

Chris Dancisak discussed the Museum plans to celebrate Statehood Day 2007. On January 27, 2007 (11 AM – 3 PM), the Museum will celebrate the 170th year of Michigan by highlighting the 50th of the opening of the Mackinac Bridge. Some of the highlights planned for the day will include an historic overview of the Mackinac Bridge by a bridge engineer, popular 1957 tunes as performed by Frog and the Beeftones, a display of Mackinac Bridge-related material from the Archives of Michigan, bridge-building hands-on activities for children, a discussion on how Native Americans and early French explorers traveled the Straits of Mackinac, historic photos of the Mackinac bridge, and the opportunity to talk with a maintenance crew member from the Mackinac Bridge and learn what it's like to work hundreds of feet above the Straits of Mackinac.

### **Committee Reports**

A. *Map Preservation Committee* – No report.

B. *2007 Veterans Day Program Committee* – Tom Shawver indicated that he is looking at trying to get a local World War II veteran, who was a member of and has recently published a book on the 101st Airborne, as the speaker for the 2007 Veterans Day program. He anticipates that the speaker would want to hold a book signing. It was indicated that the Committee needs to find out if the speaker would be able to sell his books at the event. It was suggested that Committee should contact Sandra Clark about this before contacting the potential speaker. Paul Tarr indicated that he will contact Susan and then contact the speaker.

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C. *Membership Committee* – Tom Shawver stated that he is aware of one organization who would like to exchange membership lists with the Friends. It was indicated that the Friends would need to poll its membership first to see if the membership would be willing to have their names made available to another organization before we agreed to do this.

There was a brief discussion regarding how the Friends would approach potential new Friends members who are already receiving the *Michigan History* magazine. It was indicated that we might be able to offer an incentive in lieu of receiving the magazine upon joining the Friends. This will need to be followed up by the Committee once it starts to receive potential new member names. Committee Chair Harrison again requested that all such names be provided to him in the form of an email, email attachment, or a computer generated file.

D. *Board Nominating Committee* – Additional names of potential new Board members were submitted to Committee Chair Keith Pohl by two Board members and an indication that a couple of more names would be forthcoming. President Spaniola requested that once the Committee had obtained sufficient names to fill the vacant Board positions, that the candidate names be submitted to the Board along with a brief biographical sketch for each candidate.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee* – Paul Tarr indicated that he had talked with a local American Legion Post who might be interested in helping to defer the cost of the sending of surplus *Michigan History* magazines.

F. *Grants Committee* – No report.

### **New Business**

Keith Harrison presented a draft new letterhead for the Friends. Several suggestions were made by the Board. He indicated that he would incorporate the changes and send the revised letterhead example out to the Board via email.

***It was moved and seconded that upon the incorporation of the suggested changes that the new letterhead be adopted for the Friends; motion passed.***

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

***It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned; motion passed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectively submitted,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

**The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, February 12, 2007, in Lansing.**